

the Bellringer

May 2009

Amherst PTA

Co-President's Letter

Amherst PTA

Serving Clark,
Wilkins and
Amherst Middle
Schools since
1931

For more Information

www.amherstpta.org

[ptaboard@
amherstpta.org](mailto:ptaboard@amherstpta.org)

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Incredible! That is the only way that I can describe this year's PTA play, *Peter Pan*. Everything about the performance was simply magical! Each year I am amazed by the scope of the production. From securing the play rights to the final curtain call, all those involved with the play give so much of their time and energy so that our community can experience a little bit of Broadway. As PTA President, I can not thank everyone enough. As I read through the spring grant requests last week, I was delighted to have the opportunity to give back to our teachers, our schools and our children because of events like *Peter Pan*. As a mother of two children in the Amherst schools, though, I have to stand up and applaud. Sitting in the SHS Theater Saturday afternoon, my children watched friends (and parents & siblings of friends) on stage having fun performing for our town. All around me, people could not hold in their belly laughs because their neighbors that they see each weekend doing yard work were up onstage acting as Pirates. Children were wide eyed watching their moms, sisters and teachers dance in the Indian Ensemble. My daughter was practically jumping out of her seat at the fact that the Michael Darling flying onstage actually attends her school! Our neighbors, friends and loved ones were magically transformed - and that is what community theater is all about.

As I mentioned, the Spring Grant Committee is hard at work. Because of your support through the magazine drive, Art to Remember, the play & playbill, the PTA is able to provide funds for items or materials not covered under the school operating budget. In previous years we have funded items that enhanced safety such as the defibrillators in the schools to items that enriched curriculum as with the stained glass curriculum unit at AMS. Please join us Tuesday, May 12th at 7:30pm in the Wilkins School library to approve the spring grants.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to donate some of your time to the Amherst PTA. We are actively looking for people who are willing to Chair committees or be part of the PTA Executive Board.

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Dates to Remember

- May 12
PTA General Meeting,
Wilkins Library 7:30 pm
AMS/Clark/Wilkins Late
Start
- May 11–May 15
Library Week Celebration
and Open House
- May 14
Wilkins First Grade
Concert, 6:30 pm
- May 15
Clark First Grade Spring
Demonstration
6 and 7 pm
AMS Dance Grades 6–8,
7–9:30 pm
- May 18–May 22
Clark/Wilkins Writing
Festival, Wilkins Gym
- May 20–21
Writing Festival Book Fair
8 am–8 pm, Wilkins Gym
- May 25
Memorial Day, No School
- May 26
AMS/Clark/Wilkins Late
Start
- May 27
AMS Grades 7 and 8, Jazz
Band Concert



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Please take a few moments to peruse the open positions in this issue of the *Bellringer*.

Christine Poisson & Krista Hanks
Amherst PTA
Co-Presidents

The Amherst PTA needs your help!

We are currently looking for interested volunteers to fill open positions for the 2009/2010 school year. If you are interested, please contact us at ptaboard@amherstpta.org

2009/2010 Volunteer Opportunities

President

Oversees the business and the direction of the PTA

Time Commitment: Year round
Monthly Executive Board meetings
Monthly General meetings

Current contacts: Christine Poisson
capoisson@comcast.net
Krista Hanks
kristahanks@comcast.net

Secretary

Responsible for the minutes and the correspondence of the PTA

Time Commitments: Year round
Monthly Executive Board meetings
Monthly General meetings

Current contact: Jil Romano
jilmarc@comcast.net

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Programs and Committees

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Magazine Drive

One of the PTA's largest fundraisers that raises money to provide enrichment programs and educational grants for our children.

To date, the Magazine Drive has earned a profit of \$26,586 and continues to earn throughout the year.

Time Commitment: Late spring/early summer of previous year for planning

September

Event date: Runs for two weeks from end of Sept to early Oct

Current Contacts: Dotsie Bohan

dotsieb@comcast.net

Susan Durling

bdurling@aol.com

Reflections

National PTA program showcasing original art from children in K-12. Runs in cooperation with the PTSA.

152 students participated in 2007/2008

34 went on to compete in the State program

1 advanced to and received an award at the National level

102 students participated producing 225 works of art in 2008/2009

33 went on to compete in the State program

Next year's theme: Beauty Is...



Time Commitment: September through March

Event dates: October (parent/child info & work session - Clark)

Second week of December (Judging nights)

First week of January (Viewing & Ceremony - local)

Second week of March (State ceremony - Derry)

Current Contacts: Wendy Conway

wconway0427@comcast.net

Shelly Kayser

skayser@hughes.net

Curriculum Enrichment - AMS

Responsible for collaborating with AMS faculty to coordinate enrichment programs throughout the year

Time Commitment: Year long

Current Contacts: Beth Hurd

bahurd@gmail.com

Programs and Committees



Clark School HOP-A-THON

Let's Get Hopping

Spring Writing Festival

Come one, come all to the Spring Writing Festival!

If you would like to volunteer to assist at the spring book fair at the writing festival on Wednesday, May 20th, or Thursday, May 21st please email Ellen Roos-Unger at

Ellenbr68@alumni.umass.edu

The Hop-A-Thon will be held at the Clark School on **Monday, May 4th** for all PM Kindergarten classes as well as the classes of Ladeau, Niland and Morse. All AM Kindergartners and the classes of Bellipanni, Gould and Geraghty will hop on **Friday, May 8th**. If you haven't received information, please pick up a student packet in the main office immediately.

On the day your child's class will participate please have him or her dress for the weather and wear comfortable sneakers. If the weather permits us to be outside for this event, sunscreen and bug spray are recommended.

If you have any questions regarding the Hop-A-Thon, please send me an email. *THE AMHERST JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB* thanks you all for your continued support. Remember, the money raised at Clark, stays at Clark!

Irene Raissis Alton
reeniryne@aol.com <<mailto:reeniryne@aol.com>>